

## As a crime victim, you have the following rights under 18 USC §3771:

- ★ The right to be reasonably protected from the accused.
- ★ The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any public court proceeding, or any parole proceeding, involving the crime or of any release or escape of the accused.
- ★ The right not to be excluded from any such public court proceeding, unless the court, after receiving clear and convincing evidence, determines that testimony by the victim would be materially altered if the victim heard other testimony at that proceeding.
- ★ The right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding in the district court involving release, plea, sentencing, or any parole proceeding.
- ★ The reasonable right to confer with the attorney for the Government in the case.
- ★ The right to full and timely restitution as provided in the law.
- ★ The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay.
- ★ The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy

**We will make our best efforts to ensure you are accorded the rights described. You can seek the advice of an attorney with respect to these rights.**

## Information for Victims and Witnesses of Federal Crime.

As Federal law enforcement professionals, we are concerned about the problems often experienced by victims and witnesses of crime. The following information has been prepared to help you deal with those problems and to answer questions that may arise during an investigation. We have included information which will give you an understanding of how the federal criminal justice system works.

We know that the days and months ahead may be difficult for you and your family. We hope this brochure will be helpful to you and that you will contact the case agent or

victim-witness coordinator listed on the back of this brochure for further assistance.

## The Investigation.

During the investigation, you will be kept informed of the status of the case, if you so request. A federal investigation can be complex and lengthy. It may involve several organizations, both federal and local.

If you request notification from the agent, he or she will tell you if a defendant is apprehended. Once a case is filed, you will be contacted by the Victim-Witness Coordinator with the U.S. Attorney's Office who will assist you during the prosecution stage of the case.

## Restitution And Compensation.

### Victim Compensation

The Victim Compensation Program for the State of Maine helps cover expenses for victims who have suffered physical or psychological injury. They cover up to 85% of medical, counseling, and lost wages. To obtain information and an application call: **1(800)903-7882**.

### Restitution

Under federal law, restitution is mandatory for many (but not all) types of crimes. It is important for those victims who may be entitled to restitution to keep a record of their losses, medical expenses, property damage and counseling expenses, with receipts when possible. This information will be needed by the probation department if the defendant is convicted and ordered to pay restitution. Restitution collection is enforced by the **Financial Litigation Unit**.

If you have questions about payments and disbursements, please call the **FLU** at **(207)780-3257** or **1-800-984-6377**.

Some or all of your loss may consist of property or monies that is recovered by the investigating agency. These will be

returned to you as quickly as possible without jeopardizing the case.

## If You Are Threatened Or Harassed.

If anyone threatens you or you feel that you are being harassed because of your cooperation with this case, there are remedies available. Your safety is paramount. Contact the investigating agent or the Victim-Witness Assistance staff immediately. They will discuss additional protective measures with you such as temporary restraining orders and possible re-location. In addition, there are penalties for harassment and other threats. Therefore, for your safety, it is important that you report incidences of harassment and/or threats as soon as possible.

## Other Assistance Services.

- ❑ Notification, upon request, of the status of the case including pretrial release or indictment or dismissal of charges, court dates that the victim is required or entitled to attend, terms of any negotiated plea, verdicts and sentences.
- ❑ The opportunity to provide a written victim impact statement to probation detailing social, financial, psychological or physical harm experienced as a result of the crime.
- ❑ The opportunity for victims to be heard at relevant court proceedings.
- ❑ Separate waiting area for victims and witnesses away from defendant and defense witnesses.
- ❑ Entry into the Bureau of Prisons Witness/Victim Notification Program which provides notice of inmate status including release date, furloughs or escape.
- ❑ Court support.

- ❑ Information and assistance with travel, lodging, parking and reimbursement for court appearances and pre-trial interviews.
- ❑ Referrals to other agencies or professionals for counseling, shelter, or compensation.

## The Emotional Impact Of Crime.

Many victims and witnesses of crime are emotionally affected by their experience and although everyone reacts differently, many people report common reactions such as:

- ◆ Anger.
- ◆ Feelings of panic and anxiety.
- ◆ Nightmares and sleep pattern changes.
- ◆ Feelings of self-doubt, shame or guilt.
- ◆ Reliving what happened.
- ◆ Depression, difficulty concentrating.
- ◆ Increased concern for personal safety and that of their family.

All of these responses are **normal reactions** to a very **abnormal event**. Many people continue to have these responses for some time after the crime. The Victim/Witness Unit can assist you in finding appropriate support services.

## Contact Information.

**Heather Putnam**  
**Victim-Witness Coordinator**

U.S. Attorney's Office  
100 Middle Street  
Portland ME 04101  
(207)780-3257 Fax (207)780-3304

**Marilyn DiBonaventuro**  
**Victim-Witness Specialist**

U.S. Attorney's Office  
P.O. Box 2460  
Bangor, Maine 04402-2460  
(207)945-0373 Fax (207)945-0319

**Maine State Compensation Program**

1-800-903-7882

**State Crisis Hotline**

1-888-568-1112

**National Organization for Victim Assistance**

800-TRY-NOVA

**National Center for Victims of Crime**

800-FYI-CALL

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Investigative Agency

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Case Agent/Investigator Phone



## Information and Assistance

for

**Victims and Witnesses**

of

**Federal Crime**

Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Maine  
Victim/Witness Unit